

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A stage base comprises a magnetic body and has a slider guide surface defined by a groove. A portion of the slider that opposes the guide surface is
5 provided with an air pad, whereby a hydrostatic bearing is formed. The slider is further provided with a pressurizing magnet for applying a magnetic attractive force between itself and the guide surface in a direction perpendicular to the guide surface.
10 Displacement of the slider in a direction orthogonal to the travelling direction thereof is limited to a predetermined range using a magnetic attractive force, which is parallel to the guide surface, produced when at least a part of the pressurizing magnet deviates
15 from the guide surface. A direct-acting guide is thus rendered unnecessary.